

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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R 210849Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO ASECSTATE WASHDC 3640

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, RP, ASEAN

SUBJECT: PHILIPPINE SELF-RELIANCE, ASEAN AND THE US BASES

REF: A) MANILA 6887 B) MANILA 6872

BEGIN SUMMARY: PRESS CONTINUES TO HARP ON THEME OF PHILIPPINE
(AND REGIONAL) SELF-RELIANCE, LINKING IT WITH ASSUMED ASEAN
AGREEMENT ON PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES AND ON NEED FOR
ALTERATION IN STATUS OF US BASES. EXPRESS COLUMNIST PREDICTS
END RESULT OF BASE REASSESSMENT WILL BE REVERSION OF CLARK
TO PHILIPPINES AND POSSIBLE RETENTION OF SUBIC BY USM END SUM.

1. EXECUTIVE BOARD OF NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL MET MAY 20 AND
HEARD ROMULO REPORT ON ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING (REFTEL).
ACCORDING PRESS, PRESIDENT MARCOS EXPRESSED SATISFACTION
WITH RESULTS INCLUDING DRAFT TREATY OF AMITY WITH MECHANISM
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FOR DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, AND DECISION TO ESTABLISH ASEAN

PERMANENT SECRETARIAT. AT SAME MEETING ACCORDING PRESS
PRESIDENT ALSO RELEASED FUNDS TO ACCELERATE ARMED FORCES
PROGRAM OF SELF-RELIANCE IN MANUFACTURE OF SMALL ARMS
AND AMMUNITION.

2. IN RELATED EDITORIAL AND COLUMNS, MANILA PRESS HAS BEEN
WEAVING TOGETHER COMMENTARY ON ASEAN, POSSIBLE MODIFICATIONS
IN STATUS OF US BASES, AND THE NEED FOR SELF-RELIANCE
DRAMATIZED BY INDOCHINA. MAY 21 EDITORIAL IN TIMES JOURNAL
SAID DISPUTE SETTLEMENT MECHANISM UNDERSCORED ASEAN MEMBERS'
"DETERMINATION TO BE LEFT ALONE BY THE MAJOR POWERS IN
SETTLING ANY DIFFERENCE THAT MAY ARISE AMONG THEMSELVES."
EDITORIAL GOES ON TO SUGGEST THAT NEW MECHANISM MIGHT BE
APPLICABLE TO "OUR PROBLEM IN THE SOUTH" IF GOP FEELS IT
WOULD HELP ATTAIN SOLUTION. SOMEWHAT SIMILAR EDITORIAL IN
EXPRESS SAYS DISPUTE SETTLEMENTS MECHANISM ("A PHILIPPINE
PROPOSAL") IS "FIRST TANGIBLE ACCOMPLISHMENT" EMANATING
FROM THE REGION-WIDE REASSESSMENT FOLLOWING VIETNAM DEBACLE.

3. SIGNED COLUMN BY AGUILAR CRUZ IN SAME ISSUE OF TIMES
JOURNAL NOTES THAT ASEAN GOAL OF REGIONAL NEUTRALITY
IMPOSSIBLE AS LONG AS BASES REMAIN AT CLARK AND SUBIC.
ACCORDING CRUZ, KL MEETING MARKED BY "AIR OF UNREALITY"
BECAUSE OF FAILURE TO DISCUSS THIS TICKLISH ISSUE "AL-
THOUGH THEY MAY HAVE MENTIONED IT JOKINGLY IN THE LAVA-
TORY." DIGRESSING FURTHER INTO SUBJECT OF BASES, CRUZ
COMMENTED: "HOPEFULLY, WE WANT TO SEE CLARK AIR BASE
TURNED INTO AN INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX WHILE KEEPING AN OPEN
MIND ON SUBIC, WHICH THE US WOULD CONTINUE TO USE FOR
AN INDEFINITE PERIOD." (CRUZ EMPHASIZED THAT THESE "TERMS"
HIS OWN AND NOT BASED ON OFFICIAL INFORMATION, BUT OPINED
THEY PROBABLY REPRESENT "HOW WE'LL END UP AS FAR AS THE
BASES ARE CONCERNED.")

4. COMMENT: WE CAN EXPECT TO SEE FURTHER COMMENTARY LINK-
ING ASEAN DEVELOPMENTS AND ALTERATIONS IN STATUS OF BASES
WITH OVERALL NEED FOR SELF-RELIANCE. PRESS IS TENDING TO
ASSUME THAT FINAL AGREEMENT WITHIN ASEAN RE DISPUTES SETTLE-
MENT MECHANISM IS NEARER THAN WE UNDERSTAND IS ACTUALLY THE
CASE.

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SULLIVAN

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Message Attributes

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